

# More Rt. 1 sections nearing completion

By Kate House  
Staff writer

The Rt. 1 bypass project is nearing its final stretch. Two portions are scheduled to open this year and another by 2000, leaving only the Smyrna-Townsend sections to be completed.

## Kent County

Scarborough Road, linking Rt. 1 or Rt. 13 in north Dover to McKee Road in west Dover, is due to open late this year.

Next year, in December 2000, the Puncheon Run connector will open, joining Rt. 13 and Rt. 1 and eliminating the need to use Rt. 10 as a link between the two roads,

The connector, expected to carry 22,900 cars a day, will also link Rt. 113 and Rt. 13.

Since construction is going well, the road could open sooner, said Michele Ackles, manager of external affairs for DelDOT.

"We hope it will divert some truck traffic away from Rt. 13 and Rt. 10," said Rob McCleary, DelDOT's Rt. 1 project manager. "Residents on Rt. 10

have expressed a lot of interest in the connector. Also, it'll relieve traffic on 13 through Dover."

## New Castle

Upstate, the big news for Kent County motorists will be the opening of the Rt. 1 bypass around Odessa.

By Nov. 16, drivers will be able to take the bypass from just south of Odessa to just south of the C&D Canal Bridge. Tolls will be collected at Biddles Corner; the amount has not been set.

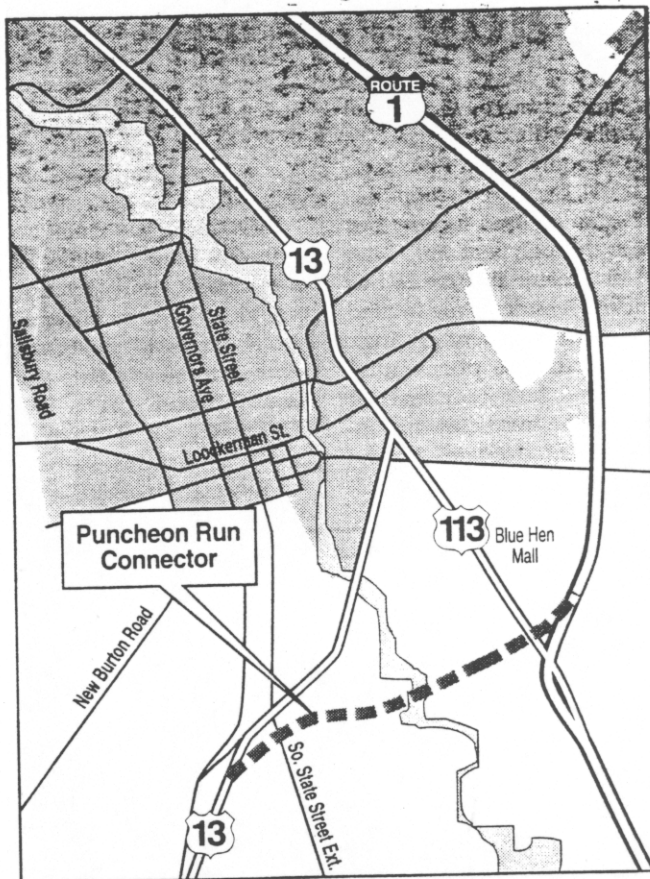
Free access to the bridge will still be available from Rt. 13.

In the design stages are two projects in the Smyrna-Townsend area that will complete Rt. 1. One part will go from Sycamore Farms to Townsend, the other from Townsend to north of Smyrna.

Both, said Ackles, will begin construction in 2000 and finish in December 2003.

By 2003, Rt. 1 will stretch 46 miles and take drivers from Barkers Landing to Christiana.

In other road projects not related to Rt. 1, McCleary said the Army Corps of Engineers is still planning to demolish the old St. Georges Bridge. No date has been set.



**THE PUNCHEON RUN CONNECTOR, linking Rt. 1 and Rt. 13, will open next year.**

The upstate Churchman's Road intersection project, which has been underway for a year, will also finish this fall. It improves the intersection at Churchman's Road and Rt. 7. Included in the project is a large bridge that will put Rt. 7 traffic over Churchman's Road.

Looking southward toward the Delaware beaches, DelDOT is studying corridor preservation on Rt. 113. This would prevent DelDOT from having to widen the road or build a new road by eliminating signals and new entrances.